

## NINE USEFUL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE TIPS

## SHORT TERM CARE



Once your Woodpecker floor has been installed you'll be able to feel its delightful texture underfoot and enjoy the warm sense of nature a wood finish brings to your home. However, like all natural substances, wood is susceptible to wear and tear. To ensure it always looks its best and lasts longer, here are some steps you can take to protect it...

## 1 - FLOOR MATS

The natural place to start is at the door, and a good quality floor mat will catch dirt and grit, preventing damage further into to your home. Grit underfoot is like sandpaper, scratching the floor's finish, so consider fitting Woodpecker Coir Matting which provides a barrier to wet and dirty feet.

## 2 - RUGS OR CARPET RUNNERS

We know that the last thing you want to do is cover up the beautiful texture of your natural wood floor, but sometimes prevention is better than the cure. Consider rugs or carpet runners for high footfall areas such as doorways, halls and stairs.

## 3 - BE CAREFUL WITH FURNITURE

Never drag furniture or other objects across your wood floor – it can easily result in unsightly dents or scratches. Woodpecker offers a variety of felt protectors and castor cups that enable you to move furniture easily without marking your floor.

## 4 - SHOE RULES

Avoid wearing heavy shoes or work boots when stepping onto your natural wood floor. High heels, and stilettos in particular, should be avoided. They exert a huge amount of pressure that easily dents or marks even the toughest of wood floors.

## 5 - CLEAN UP SPILLS

Liquid is the enemy, so mop up any spilled drinks and never allow water or other liquids to sit for any length of time. The odd drop may not hurt, but excessive amounts of water will cause lasting damage.

## 6 - PET PATROL

Nothing's more natural than a dog or cat curled up by the fire, asleep on your wood floor. But remember to keep your pet's claws trimmed to prevent scratches and, as with point five, if there are any 'accidents' make sure they're cleaned up fast.

## 7 - SUNSHINE

It's thrilling to see the sun illuminating a wood floor, filling the room with natural light and warmth. Sunlight will naturally help the wood's colour to mellow, so be aware of this and move rugs, mats and furniture regularly to ensure an even maturing of colour. Dark woods like Walnut are more susceptible to fading, which is worth considering when you choose your flooring.

## 8 - LIGHT CLEANING

Regular sweeping with a soft bristled broom will get rid of dust and rogue bits of grit on the floor. You can also vacuum a natural wood floor – ideally with a soft brush attachment to minimise scratching.

## 9 - MOPPING

As per point five, wetness can damage a hardwood floor so always use a well-wrung mop when cleaning and remove excess liquid immediately. Woodpecker supplies specially formulated cleaning kits that include an antistatic mop, cleaning fluid and trigger head spray bottle for easy application. They are available for both lacquered and oiled finishes, with refills available as necessary.

## EXPERT TIP

## A DROP OF OIL

Install a Woodpecker natural wood floor with an oil finish and, within reason, you'll be able to repair scratches and other blemishes. Simply apply wood oil where the scratch has occurred, rub it in, and soon the offending mark will blend in with the rest of the oiled floor.

## MAINTAINING A BEAUTIFUL NATURAL FLOOR

## LONG TERM CARE

## LONG TERM CARE

Even though the most advanced wood treatments and finishes are used to create our nature inspired flooring, your hardwood floor will need to be looked after to stay in tip-top condition. This involves cleaning and sometimes re-finishing your flooring at suitable intervals to ensure it continues to delight throughout its lifetime.

## CLEANING OILED FLOORS

To protect the beautiful look and feel of your oiled floor, we recommend removing grit and dust regularly with a brush or vacuum cleaner. You can also use the Woodpecker Cleaning Kit for Oiled Floors or a well wrung damp cloth mop.

For a deeper clean now and again, use Woodpecker One Coat Soap. This clever product will clean your floor and form a protective film, helping to build its surface resistance over time and making your floor even easier to maintain.

## CLEANING LACQUERED FLOORS

Ensure your lacquered floor stays clean and keeps its stunning shine by using the Woodpecker Cleaning Kit for Lacquered & Laminate Floors or a well wrung damp mop.

## RESTORATION TREATMENTS FOR WOOD FLOORING

How often you recoat or repair your floor will depend on several factors including the type of floor it is, its finish and the wear its experienced. However, as a basic preventative, you might consider recoating your floor every two or three years. Don't wait until your floor looks worn. If you allow the protective coat to wear away, it becomes susceptible to dirt and water penetration and harder to clean and repair.

## A QUICK TEST

A good way to check whether your floor needs treatment is to pour a few drops of water onto its surface. If the finish is in good order, the water will bead on the floor and can easily be wiped away. No maintenance is needed. If the water slowly soaks into the timber, leaving behind a light saturation mark, the finish is starting to wear thin. A new coat of lacquer or oil should be applied. However, if the water is immediately absorbed and leaves a dark stain, the finish has been completely worn away and the floor may need sanding and recoating.

NB: Before any treatment is carried out, we recommend testing in an inconspicuous area of the floor to check compatibility.

## LAMINATE FLOOR REPAIRS

Because of its construction and finish, a laminate floor cannot be treated in the same way that a hardwood or engineered floor can. However, small chips and scratches can be concealed using the Colourfill Repair Paste. This comes with a solvent which can be used to clean the damaged area before the filler is applied, and to remove excess filler afterwards.

## RE-LACQUERING &amp; REPAIRS

If your lacquered floor gets any isolated scratches or dents, these can be sealed using Woodpecker Touch-Up Lacquer. First, make sure the area is clean and dry then lightly sand the surface with a fine grit sanding paper. Using the brush supplied in the lid, paint the lacquer onto the affected area and leave it to cure.

Deeper scratches or gouges might call for professional wood filler. These are available in a variety of colours from most hardware and flooring retailers. They come as a paste, which is applied to the damaged area, left to cure, then sanded. Afterwards, apply some Woodpecker Touch-Up Lacquer to give the repair a protective finish.

Extra care is needed when sanding stained floors to ensure that the process doesn't break through the complete layer of stain. In this instance, the floor would require a patch-repair before the lacquer is applied.

If the floor is badly worn in some places, it may be necessary to sand the flooring back to its unfinished surface before recoating all over. Unlike oil, lacquer doesn't penetrate the wood's surface, instead it sticks to it. Therefore, the entire floor must be covered to prevent the formation of ridges and overlap marks. For best results, use a roller. A single coat of lacquer will be enough to protect against moisture, though several coats should be applied if the floor faces lots of foot traffic.

If you are lacquering unfinished timber, you will need to cover it with three coats. Between each coat, the floor must be sanded, vacuumed and wiped thoroughly with a damp cloth. Lacquer takes one to two hours to dry between applications. After the final coat, leave the floor for 24 hours before stepping onto it. Curing will continue for a week, after which rugs can be placed on the floor.

## RE-OILING &amp; REPAIRS

Unlike lacquered floors, isolated areas of an oiled floor can be treated without having to re-oil the entire floor. Yet, oiled surfaces aren't as tough as lacquered surfaces and need to be maintained more often.

Before re-oiling your floor, it's essential that you clean up any dust or dirt that's accumulated. Contamination will hinder adhesion and could affect how the floor looks. Apply a small amount of One Coat Cleaner to a dry cloth and wipe the affected area thoroughly. Dust will be collected electro-statically. It takes 15 minutes to an hour to dry depending on the saturation. If the floor remains soiled, consider sanding the surface and clean again with One Coat Cleaner.

Make sure the floor is completely dry before applying Woodpecker One Coat Oil. This should be applied sparingly and evenly, along the wood's grain, using a cotton cloth, brush or squeegee. The oil will react with the floor within a minute and any excess should be wiped away within 15 or 20 minutes making sure the surface is nearly dry. Because the oil reacts so quickly, it's a good idea to treat relatively small areas each time. Oil doesn't leave tide or overlap marks and should be left for 24 to 36 hours before you can stand on the floor again or it's cleaned.